of human right so that witness may not hesitate to come forward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) "Police" and "Public Order" are included in the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Consequently, the State Governments concerned are primarily responsible for taking action to improve the methods for interrogations, etc.

The Government of India have however, issued guidelines to the State Governments from time to time to ensure that the police forces conduct themselves in a humane manner and that alleged cases of police excesses if any, should be taken serious note of and dealt with promptly and firmly. For scientific investigation of crime, assistance is also given to States under the Modernisation of Police Forces Scheme for purchase of scientific aid to investigation.

The Government of India also organised a Conference of Chief Ministers on 14th September, 1992 to discuss human rights issues, where, inter-alia, the subject of custodial deaths was also discussed. The State Governments take appropriate action in cases of violations of human rights including sensitisation of the law enforcement agencies at various levels.

Setting up of Autonomous District Council for LEH

731. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently set up an Autonomous District Council for Leh in Ladakh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Pursuant to a tripartite agreement between the Central Goernment, the State Government and the representative of the Ladakh Buddhist Association, a series of meetings were held at the official level with the representatives of the region to discuss issues pertaining to setting up appropriate institutional arrangements in Ladakh, which would enable stepping up the pace of development and help to preserve the cultural heritage and aspirations of the people of the Region. A consensus was reached in the last meeting held on 8-9 October 1993, in the presence of the Union Home Minister, to set up an Autonomous Hill Council for Leh. Pursuant to this, the State Government will take further steps to draw up a legislation for the purpose, which would also have provision to enable a similar arrangement for the Kargil District.

Issue of identity cards to freedom fighters

732. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of freedom fighters who have been recognised by Government so far and issued identity cards;

(b) what is the number of pending applications in this regard; and

(c) by when recognition of their services rendered to the nation will materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): (a) So far 1,61,568 persons (including dependents such as widows, unmarried/unemployed daughters) have been sanctioned the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension in recognition of the sufferings undergone by them during the freedom struggle. The scheme does not provide for issue of any identity card to the freedom fighters.

(b) and (c) while no applications received within the prescribed last date i.e. 31.3.1982 are pending 4436 delayed